Except Ratlam-Mhow-Khandwa-Akola gauge conversion project, all the above projects fall partly/fully in Gujarat state

(d) The details and status of the various ongoing gauge conversion projects which arc being executed by Rail Vikash Nigam Ltd. is as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Status
1.	Bhildi-Samdhari	Earthwork, bridge works, ballast etc., have been taken up. Overall physical progress is 85%. Targeted for completion during 2009-10.
2.	Thanjavur-Villupuram	Villupuram-Cuddalore and Thanjavur-Sirkazhi sections (138 km) completed. Overall physical progress is 90%. Targeted for completion during 2009-10.
3.	Ajmer-Phulera-Ringus-Rewari	Phulera-Ringus-Riwari (215 km) section completed. Work on balance portion of Phulera-Ajmer has been taken up. Targeted for completion during 2009-10.
4.	Bharuch-Samni-Dahej	The project is being executed by Special Purpose Vehicle. Share Holder Agreement (SHA) has been signed. Conversion work taken up.

Development and upgradation in North Gujarat

2396. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) why development and upgradation in North Gujarat area is neglected by her Ministry;

(b) whether the Ministry would look into various demands from Radhampur, Patan and Palampur area concerning more broad gauge railway connections, extension of trains from Ahmedabad and Gauge conversion between Bhiladi-Samdari and Patan-Bhiladi railway lines; and

(c) if so, by when, alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Equitable and balanced regional development is a policy of this Ministry. A request has been received from the State Government of Gujarat containing some of the railway projects of North Gujarat. The details are as under:—

(1) Harij-Mahsana-Radhanpur. Survey completed and proposed new line not taken up.

(2) Gauge conversion of Mahsana-Taranga Hill with extension to Ambaji: Survey completed and proposal not taken up.

(3) Gauge conversion between Himmatnagar-Khedbrahma with extension to Ambaji: Survey taken up for gauge conversion between Himmatnagar-Khedbrahma with extension to Abu Road.

Gauge conversion of Bhildi- Samdari and construction of new line between Patan- Bhildi as a part of Bhildi- Viramgam gauge conversion project have been taken up and are in different stages of progress.

Besides that, following train facilities have been announced in Railway Budget 2009-10 serving Ahmedabad:—

New Trains:

Sl. No.	From	To	Type	Frequency
1	Gandhidham	Howrah	Superfast	Weekly
2	Veraval	Mumbai	Link Service	Daily
3	Mumbai	Ahmedabad	AC non stop	Tri-weekly
4	Hapa	Tirunelveli	Express	Bi-weekly
5.	Mumbai	Jodhpur	Express	Weekly
6	Mumbai	Bikaner	Superfast	Bi-weekly

Extension:

Sl. No.	Train No.	From	To	Type	Upto
1.	9269/9270	Porbandar	Bapudham Motihari	Express	Muzaffarpur

Increase in Frequency:

Sl. No.	Train No.	From	To	Type	From	To
1	2957/2958	Ahmedabad	New Delhi	Rajdhani Express	6	7
2	2905/2906	Porbandar	Howrah	Express	2	3

Representations for train services

2397. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that various organizations/associations/unions have since long representing to increase number of coaches in the trains/frequency of trains/ introduction of new trains and the Government of Gujarat has been forwarding the same from time to time to the concerned divisional manager of Railways for the needful; and